(a) whether there is great threat of environmental pollution by the Rawat Bhata Nuclear Power Plant; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the pollution there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The safety aspects of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) are constantly reviewed by a Multi tier system of review by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The radioactivity releases into the environment from RAPS have been low and well below the limits stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Radiation surveys and an analysis of water, soil, food, air and other food products collected have been systematically carried out in the area around the plant to ensure environmental safety.

**Minimum Wages to Mica Industry Labourers**

3431. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum wages and facilities prescribed for the labourers (Government and Private) engaged in production and export of Mica in various States;

(b) whether these facilities and wages are being provided to the labourers of Bihar; and

(c) if not, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The Minimum rates of wages for different categories of workmen employed in Mica mines were revised on 25.10.1988. Special allowance linked with Consumer Price Index at interval of every six months, commencing from 1st October and 1st April is adjusted. A statement showing minimum rates ofwages fixed and special allowance payable from 1.10.1991 to the employees engaged in Mica mines is enclosed.

Welfare facilities provided under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 include provision of medical, housing, drinking water, educational, recreation and family welfare facilities.

(b) As the Appropriate Government, the Central Government enforces the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act with a view to ensure the payment of minimum rates of wages all over the country including Bihar. The High Court of Patna, Ranchi Bench in the case of Suresh Kumar Jhanjhri Vs. Union of India and others (CWJ 164 1987 (R) ) held that the scheduled employment of mica works do not cover mica mines and therefore, the notification issued by the Central Government fixing/revising the minimum rates of wages is not applicable to the employees engaged in mica mines. In view of this decision, the provisions of Minimum Wages Act and the minimum wages fixed by the Central Government coulo not be enforced in respect of the employees engaged in mica mines in the State of Bihar.

(c) The Government is contemplating to amend the scheduled employment, mentioned at Item 10 of Part I of the Schedulo to Minimum Wages Act so as to include mica mines also in the schedule of employment of mica works.

**STATEMENT**

*Minimum rates of wages fixed and special allowance payable to the employees engaged in Mica Mines w.e.f. 1.10.1991*

*(In rupees)*

| *Categories of workers* | *For Work above ground* | | | *For work below ground* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Basic Wages* | *Special allowance* | *Total* | *Basic Wages* | *Special Allowance* | *Total* |
| nskilled | 15.30 | 5.00 | 20.30 | 18.45 | 6.27 | 24.72 |
| emi-skilled/ nskilled upervisors | 19.05 | 6.27 | 25.32 | 22.85 | 7.50 | 30.35 |
| Skilled | 23.75 | 7.50 | 31.25 | 28.15 | 9.37 | 37.52 |